



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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September 17, 2004

Kathleen B. Davis, Program Management Director,
Highways and Local Programs
Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 47390
Olympia, WA 98504-7390

Dear Ms. Davis:

This letter officially transmits the 2004 Highway Urban Area (HUA) population estimates.

The Office of Financial management is continuing to develop a small area housing and population database for the development of small area estimates. Estimates from this database should be more reflective of local changes. Highway Urban Area population estimates for 2004 are developed from current estimates of housing within the HUA boundaries in each county. These estimates are not strictly comparable to the previous HUA estimates developed by using the HUA's share of their total county population at the last census.

HUA populations are consistent with the latest electronic boundaries provided by the Department of Transportation. These electronic boundaries are offset 75 feet from street centerlines so that entire bounding roadways can be shown as either in or out of the Highway Urban Area.

The population for Vashon Island HUA is an exception. The Vashon Island population is developed on the basis of roadway boundaries and excludes the 75-foot offset.

If you have any questions about these estimates, please contact Lawrence Weisser at (360) 902-0589 / lawrence.Weisser@ofm.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Weisser
Demographer
Forecasting Division

Enclosures

cc: Charlie Howard, Department of Transportation
Elizabeth Robbins, Department of Transportation
Ralph Wilhelmi, Department of Transportation
Eric Meale, Department of Transportation
Bob Moorhead, Transportation Improvement Board
Don Zimmer, County Road Administration Board

**The Population of New and Revised Highway Urban Areas (HUA)
HUA Based on Census 2000 Counts for the 2000 Decade¹**

Areas		2000 ²	2004
Adams	Othello	5,850	6,070
Asotin	Lewiston-Clarkston (part)	19,439	19,530
Benton	Kennewick-Richland-Pasco (Part)	119,722	130,685
Chelan	Wenatchee-East Wenatchee (Part)	33,472	34,030
Clallam	Port Angeles	21,492	21,125
Clark	Hockinson	4,761	5,290
	Vancouver-Camas-Battle Ground	289,158	319,655
Cowlitz	Longview-Kelso	60,575	61,160
Douglas	Wenatchee-East Wenatchee (Part)	23,208	24,610
Franklin	Richland-Kennewick-Pasco (Part)	36,798	43,745
Grant	Ephrata	6,897	7,015
	Moses Lake	22,728	23,620
	Quincy	5,016	5,190
Grays Harbor	Aberdeen-Hoquiam-Cosmopolis	29,816	29,900
Island	Camano Island	6,603	7,085
	Oak Harbor	22,136	23,425
Jefferson	Port Townsend	8,622	8,590
King	Seattle-Tacoma-Everett (Part)	1,662,839	1,706,400
	Vashon Island	5,079	5,175
Kitsap	Bremerton-Bainbridge Island-Port Orchard	185,008	190,560
	Seattle-Tacoma-Everett (Part)	768	775
Kittitas	Ellensburg	15,526	15,890
Lewis	Centralia-Chehalis	27,190	27,425
Mason	Shelton	8,781	8,640
Pierce	Seattle-Tacoma-Everett (Part)	657,578	697,345
Skagit	Anacortes	14,861	15,500
	Mount Vernon-Burlington-Sedro Woolley	52,588	56,130
Snohomish	Seattle-Tacoma-Everett (Part)	526,460	559,495
Spokane	Cheney	8,924	9,810
	Spokane-Spokane Valley	339,501	348,450
Thurston	Olympia-Lacey-Tumwater	146,161	151,600
Walla Walla	Kennewick-Richland-Pasco (Part)	2,416	2,855
	Walla Walla-College Place	42,632	43,550
Whatcom	Bellingham	84,282	90,795
	Ferndale	12,385	12,940
	Lynden	9,385	10,145
Whitman	Pullman	24,682	25,775
Yakima	Grandview	8,791	8,960
	Sunnyside	14,842	15,275
	Toppenish	8,912	8,945
	Yakima-Selah-Union Gap	117,332	118,985
Total		4,693,216	4,902,145

¹HUA boundaries are redefined on the basis of decennial census counts. Based on the Census 2000 counts five new areas were formed and five existing areas were combined with other HUAs. Most other HUAs were redefined.

²The populations of the new and revised HUAs shown in the 2000 column above are derived from the Census 2000 counts. These were not the official HUA populations for 2000. The official populations of HUAs published in 2000 had boundaries based on the 1990 census and were developed from population estimates.

Highway Urban Area (HUA) Boundaries and Population Notes

1. The basic methodology for the 2004 HUA population estimates is as follows:
 - In each county with a HUA, or part of a HUA, determine the number of housing units and population counted by Census 2000.
 - Determine the ratio of population to housing units, separately, for each HUA within a county.
 - Obtain by county, the number of housing units within each HUA in 2004.
 - Multiply the number of housing units in 2004 by the ratio of population to housing in 2000.
2. HUA populations are consistent with the electronic boundaries provided by the Department of Transportation. These electronic boundaries are offset 75 feet from street centerlines so that entire bounding roadways can be shown as either in or out of the Highway Urban area.
3. The population for Vashon Island's HUA is an exception to the rule in note 2. The Vashon Island population is developed on the basis of roadway boundaries and excludes the 75-foot offset.
4. Some entire cities, such as Ephrata, Toppenish, and Quincy are HUAs. The 2000 HUA populations for these and similar cities may not match their 2000 census population. This is because the HUA boundaries are offset 75 feet from road centerlines and these boundary differences result in the population differences.
5. HUA populations may be revised due to boundary changes. The Highway Urban Area Boundary Review Team determines boundary changes. Municipal annexations are one source of boundary change. Other changes may be made at the request of the Department of Transportation or local governments due to special considerations after the initial boundaries are established.